

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, US, UR

SUBJECT:VOA PROGRAMMING ON USSR

REF: A.MOSCOW 17478 B. MOSCOW 17502

JOINT STATE USIA MESSAGE

1. DEPT AND USIA HAVE REVIEWED POLICY GUIDANCE TO VOA OVER LAST SIX MONTHS AND MADE SELECTIVE CHECK OF BROADCAST CONTENT. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO CHANGE IN APPROACH TO HANDLING NEWS, COMMENTARY OR FEATURES IN VOA RUSSIAN BROADCASTS OVER THIS PERIOD AS BEFORE, VOA BROADCASTS REFLECT WHAT IS BEING SAID ABOUT USSR IN US MEDIA AND LIVE-LY CURRENT DISCUSSIONS OF CSCE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN OUTPUT. NO GUIDANCE HAS BEEN ISSUED WHICH WOULD MARK A DEPARTURE FROM PAST POLICY, WHICH IS THAT VOA REPORTS SUCH INFORMATION FULLY

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AS IT MAKES NEWS HERE BUT DOES NOT MAKE NEWS ITSELF BY

ARRANGING EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS, SAMIZDAT READINGS AND THE LIKE.

2. DEPT WONDERS IF THERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN SOVIET COMPLAINTS ABOUT VOA BROADCASTS AND NEW REPORTS THAT THE BROADCASTS ARE BEING JAMMED, AT LEAST LOCALLY AND INTERMITTENTLY. NOW THAT CSCE IS BEHIND THEM, THEY MAY BE

MAKING A RECORD WHICH COULD BE USED TO JUSTIFY EVENTUAL REINTRODUCTION OF JAMMING.

3. ON GENERAL QUESTION OF RADIO BROADCASTING, WE SUGGEST EMBASSY POINT OUT TO SOVIETS IF QUESTION ARISES AGAIN THAT THEY HAVE OFTEN EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THE "BATTLE OF IDEAS" CONTINUES DESPITE DETENTE. VOA, LIKE RADIO MOSCOW, IS THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT STATION, WHILE RADIO LIBERTY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE, LIKE RADIO PEACE AND PROGRESS, ARE "UNOFFICIAL" STATIONS SUPPORTED BY GOVERNMENT FUNDS. SOVIETS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR DESIRE TO CONVEY THEIR "UNOFFICIAL" VIEWS IS PARALLELED BY OURS. WE DO NOT AGREE WITH ALL OF THEIR VIEWS, AND THEY SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO AGREE WITH ALL OF OURS. KISSINGER

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